

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12078 301459Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 INR-10 HA-05
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2314
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12078

DEPT PASS HEW FOR SECRETARY CALIFANO

DEPT PASS HEW FOR FISCHER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, TBIO, UR, US
SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT OF HEW SECRETARY
CALIFANO

REF: STATE 136044

1. DUE TO INAVAILABILITY OF PETROVSKIY MORNING OF
MAY 30 SCIENCE COUNSELOR GAVE LETTER IN PARA 4 OF
REFTEL TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH VENEDIKTOV AND
ORALLY MADE POINTS IN PARA 6 OF PRESS RELEASE.
VENEDIKTOV REPLIED THAT HE "REGRETTE" SECRETARY
CALIFANO'S DECISION TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO THE
USSR, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT IT CAME
AS NO SURPRISE SINCE THE DECISION HAD ALREADY BEEN
REPORTED BY THE "ASSOCIATED PRESS." ALTHOUGH
VENEDIKTOV NOTED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT COULD NOT
BE LABELED "INTERFERENCE," HE ADDED THAT THE REASONS
CITED ARE PURELY INTERNAL SOVIET AFFAIRS AND HAVE
NO RELATION TO BILATERAL SCIENCE COOPERATION.
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VENEDIKTOV ADDED THAT AN ANALOGOUS SITUATION WOULD
BE IF THE SOVIETS HAD POSTPONED A VISIT BECAUSE OF
ACTION TAKEN BY A US COURT TOWARDS A US CITIZEN.
SCIENCE COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT THE US POSITION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS WELL KNOWN TO THE SOVIETS AND
CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT WE HOPE TO
CONTINUE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY UNDER CONDITIONS

OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. VENEDIKTOV AGREED THAT SOVIETS
"HOPED" TO DO SO ALSO.

2. COMMENT: VENEDIKTOV, WHO SMILED NERVOUSLY
THROUGHOUT THE BRIEF MEETING, WAS CLEARLY PREPARED
FOR THE NEWS OF THE CANCELLATION. HIS DEMEANOR WAS
CALCULATED TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT THE CANCELLATION IS
OF NO GREAT CONCERN TO THE SOVIETS - OTHER THAN WITH
RESPECT TO ITS ALLEGED IMPROPER RELATIONS TO SOVIET INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. MATLOCK

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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